Indo-US Atomic Agreement

†4620. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America is trying to prove India as a defaulter in execution of the atomic agreement between India and America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction to such type of America's endeavour in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. India and U.S. are engaged in discussions with a view to finalizing a bilateral cooperation agreement on civil nuclear energy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Secret Weapons Technology from America

4621. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Government had recently indicted Indian Government agency for participating in a conspiracy to sidestep U.S. export regulation and obtained secret weapons technology from America company over several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) U.S. law enforcement agencies have indicated a U.S.-based company, Circus Electronics LLC, USA, for allegedly exporting electronic components to three entities in India without first obtaining licenses from the U.S. Department of Commerce in line with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

U.S. Export Administration Regulation. The indictment refers to two unnamed Government of India officials as co-conspirators.

(c) It is ascertained from the concerned Indian agencies that these items had been obtained through an open tender. We have requested the US side to provide full information to enable us to look into the allegations.

University of SAARC Countries

4622. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up University of SAARC countries in India, is under consideration of Government.

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken a view regarding funding, faculty and admissions in the University; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. An Agreement to establish South Asia University in India was signed by all the member countries during the 14th SAARC Summit in New Delhi on April 4, 2007. An Intergovernmental Steering Committee is to consider, *inter-alia*, matters relating to the Charter, by-laws, rules and regulations, curriculum development, business plan, infrastructure development, selection of faculty members and other issues. India will host the first meeting of the Inter-governmental Steering Committee on May 29-30, 2007.

Opposition to Indo-Iran Pipeline

4623. SHRI DEVDAS APTE:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government have opposed the Indo-Iran Pipeline in lieu of the US sanctions against Iran;